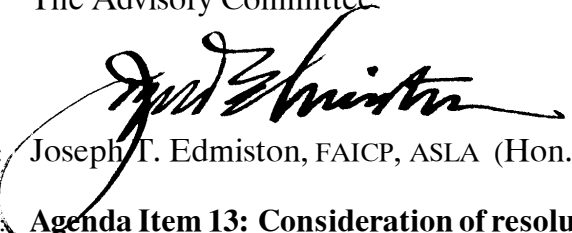


# Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 23, 2006

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, ASLA (Hon.), Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with other interested parties to establish a regional water management group pursuant to the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act of 2002, Division 6, Part 2.2 of the California Water Code, and Proposition 50, Division 26.5, Chapter 8 of the California Water Code.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with other interested parties to establish a regional water management group and to prepare an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (“IRWMP”) for the Greater Los Angeles County Region pursuant to the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act of 2002, Division 6, Part 2.2 of the California Water Code, and Proposition 50, Division 26.5, Chapter 8 of the California Water Code..

Legislative Authority: Sections 33211 (c) of the Public Resources Code

Background: In November 2002 California voters passed Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002. It amended Section 79560 of the California Water Code authorizing the Legislature to appropriate \$500 million for Integrated Regional Water Management Plan ( IRWMP ) projects. The intent of the IRWMP program is to encourage integrated regional strategies for the management of water resources and provide funding, through competitive grants, for projects that protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water.

Grant proposals under the IRWMP program must be submitted by a “regional watershed management group,” which must include three or more public agencies, where at least two of which have statutory authority over water management. Grant proposals must include documentation of a formally adopted IRWMP, and must demonstrate that all agencies and organizations and agencies necessary to address the objectives and water management strategies of the Plan were involved in the planning process. It is anticipated that coordination and information sharing among the Parties will assist the agencies in achieving their respective missions in a cost-effective and environmentally responsive manner and contribute to the overall well-being of the region. The Parties intend to coordinate and collaborate to develop and implement projects individually or jointly in groups.

In addition to the IRWMP the group may solicit external funding for Implementation of the IRWMP for the Greater Los Angeles Region.

The Greater Los Angeles Region, as defined by the IRWMP, includes much of the Conservancy Zone. It is comprised of five sub-regions spanning from Ventura County to Orange County, including portions of both, and from the coastline to the San Gabriel Mountains. It includes the North Santa Monica Bay, Upper Los Angeles River, South Bay, Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo River, and the Lower San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River watersheds.

The Conservancy has been actively engaged in the IRWMP process for several years along with the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and many other public agencies and non government organizations. Approval of entering into an MOU with these parties will not commit would not commit the Agency to any obligation to fund the development of or implementation of the IRWMP.